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Wild Gardens *Permaculture Design & Geomancy*

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Native, Edible & Medicinal Gardens



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RE: Request for Legislation to Label Genetically Engineered Foods

21 October, 1999

President Clinton
1600 Pennsylvania Ave.
Washington, DC 20500

Dear President Clinton,

I am very concerned **that** I am eating **genetically** engineered foods without being told that fact. I am sending you **this** letter to insist **that** legislation be passed into law that will **require genetically engineered foods to be labeled as such**, regardless of whether the food is in its whole form or as an ingredient in processed foods.

Genetically engineered crops are very different from those produced by typical hybridization. The Food & Drug Administration (FDA), the United States Department of Agriculture (USDA), and the Environmental Protection Agency (EPA) are being negligent in protecting the rights of the American public in regards to genetically engineered foods. I am asking you to act legislatively to end these agencies' neglect of public interest.

The FDA is allowing genetically engineered foods to come to market unlabeled although public opinion polls show a majority of Americans want them labeled. (81% in a January 11, 1999 Time magazine poll.) Last year the USDA even proposed to include genetically engineered foods in the definition of organic! The EPA is allowing the **Bt** bacteria (a valuable tool for organic agriculture) to be genetically engineered into **the** structure of plants. This could seriously undermine organic agriculture and cause significant human health and environmental problems.

Varieties of **potatoes** and corn are currently being sold that have been genetically engineered to contain the **Bt** toxin (Bacillus thuringiensis). The **Bt** toxin stays in the cell structure of the plants and is deadly enough to kill insects. We are being told these foods are safe for human consumption, but we have heard that before about DDT, EDB, and many other pesticides later shown to be cancer causing. I want to avoid genetically engineered foods. I want to avoid "Roundup Ready" soybeans or other future products such as tomatoes that contain the gene from a fish! But without labeling I cannot avoid them. So I am asking you to pass legislation to label all genetically engineered foods. Similar **labeling** legislation has already been passed in Europe and Australia.

Please write back to me and let me know how you intend to **work** to pass this legislation. Thank you!

Sincerely,

Larry E. Kulick, L.Ac.

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